

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-storage medium storing computer-readable instructions that when executed provide:

a hardware/software interface-for a computer system, said hardware/software interface manipulates a plurality of items stored in a memory device, the plurality of items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image and having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system, wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises an image schema that defines at least one image item and at least one image property, wherein at least one image item is extended to define a photo schema that defines a foundational item type from which photo items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived, the foundational item type defining attributes including a region of interest attribute of one of the photo items, the region of interest attribute including a field identifying at least one person within a first region of the one of the photo items.

2-13. Canceled

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein said foundational item type further comprises at least one attribute from among the following group of attributes: a date said photo was taken; said date a photo was acquired; a unique identification of an acquisition session for said photo; an orientation; a location; an event; a make of a camera; a model of a camera; an exposure time; an aperture; an ISO speed; an indication of whether a

flash was used for said photo; an indication of whether a red-eye mode was used for said photo; an exposure mode; and a distance of the subject of said photo.

15. Canceled

16. Canceled

17. (Previously Presented) A system for manipulating a plurality of items, the items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image and having properties understandable by a hardware/software interface system, said system comprising:

a processor;

a computer storage media storing computer executable instructions that when executed provide:

an image schema to define at least one of an image item and at least one of an image property, wherein the at least one of the image items is extended to define a photo schema that defines a foundational item type from which photo items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived, the foundational item type defining attributes including a region of interest attribute in one of the photo items, the region of interest attribute including a field identifying at least one person within a first region of the one of the photo items and a second field identifying at least one region of interest within a second region of the one of the photo items.

18. Canceled

19. (Original) The system of claim 17 wherein at least one of a property in the image schema is a property for a region of said image, the region property comprising fields for the left, top, right, and bottom coordinates of said region.

20. Canceled

21. Canceled

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said region of interest attribute of said one of the photo items further comprises a field for a confidence.

23-28. Canceled

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said hardware/software interface system comprises an analysis properties schema to define at least one analysis property (AP) of the one of the photo items.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29 wherein said at least one AP comprises at least one from among the following group of properties: a color histogram; a gray histogram; and a similarity index.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for a hardware/software interface system to manipulate a plurality of items, the items comprising discrete units of information pertaining to an image having properties understandable by said hardware/software interface system, said method comprising:

establishing by one or more processors an image schema to define at least one of an image item and at least one of an image property; and

establishing by the one or more processors an item in the image schema as a foundational item, constituting a foundational item type, from which all other image items manipulated in the hardware/software interface system are derived; and

establishing by the one or more processors a link between a photographic digital image item defined by the foundational item and an item pertaining to at least one person represented in a region of the photographic digital image item.

32-35. Canceled

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in order to represent a geographic location where the photographic digital image item was taken, establishing by the one or more processors a link between said photographic digital image item and a location item corresponding to said geographic location, such that said photographic digital image item can be queried based on said location item.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36 further comprising, in order to represent a geographic location where the photographic digital image item was taken, setting by the one or more processors a location property on said link to correspond to said geographic location.

38. Canceled

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising, in order to represent at least one event represented in the photographic digital image item, establishing by the one or more processors a link between said photographic digital image item and an item pertaining to said event, such that said photographic digital image item can be queried based on said item pertaining to said event.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 further comprising establishing by the one or more processors a link from a first digital image item to a second digital image item

that is either (a) a parent digital image item from which said first digital image item is derived or (b) a child digital image item that has been derived from said first digital image item.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-storage medium of claim 1 wherein the hardware/software interface establishes a link between the photo item and an item pertaining to the at least one person in the one of the photo items.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-storage medium of claim 1 wherein said region of interest attribute further comprises a field identifying at least one region of interest within a second region in the one of the photo items.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-storage medium of claim 42 wherein said region of interest attribute further comprises a field for a confidence.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein the computer storage media stores computer executable instructions that when executed establish a link between the one of the photo items and an item pertaining to the at least one person in the photo item.

45. (New) The system of claim 17 wherein said foundational item type further comprises at least one attribute from among the following group of properties: a date said photo was taken; said date a photo was acquired; a unique identification of an acquisition session for said photo; an orientation; a location; an event; a make of a camera; a model of a camera; an exposure time; an aperture; an ISO speed; an indication of whether a flash was used for said photo; an indication of whether a red-eye mode was used for said photo; an exposure mode; and a distance of the subject of said photo.